

S.R.No.13.
June 3rd, 1944.

BULGARIA

The new Bulgarian Ivan Bagriannoff Cabinet seems to be a temporary blind to quieten the hysterical Bulgarians. The Nazis wanted to bring Professor Asen Kantardjief, the head of the Bulgarian Nazi Ratnitz group to power, but saw that this would lead to a possible general upheaval in the already restive country. So the Nazis accepted a compromise with the Bagriannoff cabinet in which there are five of the Ratnitz. Professor Alexander Stanisheff - Minister of Interior, Dimitri Savof, Minister of Finance, Professor Dolcho Kostoff, Minister of Agriculture, and Boris Kotcheff, Minister of Railways, and Christo Vasilieff Minister of Commerce. Two other members of the cabinet are Zankov-ists - Russi Russeff and Professor Arnaudoff. Minister of War Russi Rustchef belongs to no political party.

It is considered as certain that Slavcho Sagaroff the Bulgarian Ambassador to Berlin will be within this week appointed Foreign Minister.

Today the real rulers of Bulgaria are German Ambassador Beckerle, and Heinrich Himmler's special envoy SS Obergruppenfuhrer General Zepp Dietrich, who was commander of the German forces in Yugoslavia in 1941. Admiral Schuster, who also recently arrived from Germany after consultations with Beckerle and General Dietrich has left on an inspection tour of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, and it is certain he will have his headquarters in Varna. Schuster's primer job was to try and check the continual sabotages of the railroutes leading to the Blacksea ports especially Varna, but he has not been able to check these partisan sabotages, which are daily growing in scope. Also he has found it impossible to stop the escape of Bulgarian officers via sea from Varna, and only last week 18 Bulgarian officers escaped by a motorboat and joined the Russians further up the coast.

The two Bulgarian generals at the head of partisan-patriot movements in Bulgaria, are, General Kosta Bontcheff and General Dimitri Peef. There is another report, still unconfirmed, that the Minister of Agriculture in the Bojilloff cabinet, Bachkoff, well-known for sympathy towards the Leftists has disappeared and is now at the head of the Communist organisation in Bulgaria. Bachkoff was once a follower of Stambuliski, but then seemingly accepted the Nazi point of view. The report adds that the Nazis are furiously hunting for him.

The latest successful coup of the partisans took place in the town of Sliven. The German occupation troops demanded the immediate surrender of the Bulgarian garrisons in this town. The commander of the garrison Colonel Mishev, refused to surrender and the Germans attacked. At the same minute as the German attack, partisan forces hidden in the nearby village of Svetinikola, receiving a signal from Colonel Mishev, opened an attack on the rear of the Germans. Between two fires every single man of the German occupation troops was killed. At the time my informer received this news Sliven was in the

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2004 2006

hands of the Partisans. Colonel Mishev and his troops have joined the partisans with all their armaments.

The news that two Generals and five Bulgarian officers have arrived in Turkey is not denied by the Turkish authorities. Their names still remain secret, even the Germans here seem not to know who they are. But I put out German source on to Fiala, the director of the TP German news agency here to find out what he knew. This is Fiala's version. The Russian diplomats arrived here on a train, and their two automobiles were put on open waggons. The SS and Gestapo officials at Svilingrad, made no difficulty with the Russians because they did not want to create more trouble than necessary with the Bulgarians. As soon as the train departed from Svilingrad, a Bulgarian customs man rushed up to SS commander Ziegler, and told him that there were Bulgarian officers hidden in the cars. Ziegler and a few SS near him then drew their Mauser revolvers and fired on these cars, but the train did not stop. One of the Bulgarian officers was wounded in the leg. I cannot vouch for the truth of this story but it is Fiala's version.

Arrests and questionings of University students and teachers are growing every day. One report states that recently 2,700 people especially students were arrested and all universities have been shut down. So as to make it impossible for University students to become troublesome, they are all being sent to military training camps, which are all under strictest German control.

The special gendarmerie force not having proved very successful the Nazis are now trying to create Bulgarian SS force. But they even have not sufficient uniforms, and there are many youngsters who have been forced into this service who wear the SS insignia on their civilian clothes.

There is one report that 85 percent of Sofia has been completely ruined and that there are only 10,000 to 15,000 people there during daytime and not more than 1,500 at night, but my source is a very unreliable and doubtful one so I cannot give this as a fact.